



Report to Town Council

Subject:	Nine Acres Playground	
From:	Lisa Wilkinson	
Date:	8 September 2022	
For information only		
Summary of decisions or actions requested (including timing):		
Financial implications: to be considered in the budget discussions for FY 2023/24		
Communications:		

Request from Phil Morgan on behalf of NAMC:

Following the meeting between Councillors and NA Committee members at the children's play area on Tuesday 30th August, can I ask you to bring the following suggestion to the September Council meeting:

This Council should consider establishing a medium/long term "sinking fund" for the complete renewal of the children's play area on Nine Acres playing fields. A 'review group' of Councillors and NA representatives met at the play area on Tuesday 30th August to inspect the equipment in the light of the recent ROSPA inspection report. While existing Council funds can cover the report's recommendations, it is likely that year on year maintenance such as this will not represent 'good value' for the Council in the future.

Points to consider :

- The play area is hugely popular with the families of our town and district.
- During fair weather, the play area is an important meeting point for people who may, otherwise, be isolated.

While steel structures may be more long-lasting, people do find timber structures to be more pleasant - visually and for tactile reasons. For any new equipment, we might consider steel 'feet' with wooden structures above. This would avoid the dreaded "trimmer cut-away" which has damaged so many of the existing posts.

The NA Committee thinks that this may prove to be a prudent thing to do.

Regards

Phil Morgan, Secretary NAMC

